

the community they serve. Therefore, if there is a crime, the initial complaint is handled by the police officer. The follow-up investigation is handled by the same police officer. That same police officer goes to the prosecutor to secure the warrant, and that is the same police officer that goes with you at the time of a criminal trial, if one takes place.

What community policing does is personalizes crime to build the trust and confidence between the community and a police officer. Your crime will no longer just be your crime, but it will be a crime that will be shared with your police officer. You are working with, you are standing with, you are living with, not only your community, but you are living with the police officer who is there to serve you.

As a police officer for almost 12 years myself, we had an old saying back when I was working the road: "If you want to know what is going on in any community, ask a 12-year-old kid on a bicycle, for they know what is going on in their communities."

□ 1940

They will not tell the police officers what is going on until there is that confidence, that trust and that respect.

In the last crime bill, the community policing program, commonly referred to as Clinton Cops, was a program that is being used throughout this nation. It has only been in effect for the last 3 or 4 months. But the forerunner to this Clinton Cops program was back in 1978 and 1979, in the Department of Justice, a pilot program which was put forth in northern Michigan.

Northern Michigan, my district, is a sparsely populated area in the north end of Michigan, and three rural, sparsely-populated townships were put together to form a community policing program.

The program was a smashing success, with over 70 percent of all the reported crimes being solved.

Unsolved crimes from years past were cleaned up by the community police officer. In fact, in this case, it was a Michigan State police trooper, and he was referred to as the resident trooper.

It was the first community policing program in Michigan. Community policing is now currently at work in communities as rural as northern Michigan with our three townships or in the highly populated cities such as Houston. Community policing works because police officers live in the community and near the neighbors which they police.

These police with the faith and confidence and trust of the people they serve, their constituents.

It is one program that is highly successful. To dismantle the President's community police program would be a crime in and of itself. It will be dismantled if the votes hold up as they have in recent days, not because there is waste in the program. It will be dismantled not because it does not work,

because we all know it does. The reason why it will be dismantled will be purely for political reasons.

In a crime bill, we need a combination of police, prevention and prisons. A balance of these three principles will be most successful in fighting crime.

We must leave community policing intact. We must leave the Clinton Cops program alone. It may only have been in existence for 3 or 4 months, but in city after city, in rural area throughout this country, it has worked.

APPOINT A SURGEON GENERAL WHO SUPPORTS ABSTINENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLUG). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to first commend my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN], on his, I believe, very timely and very cogent comments.

I ran for the U.S. Congress not only because I thought our Nation needed things like the line-item veto, passed tonight, as well as the balanced budget amendment, some real welfare reform, but I also ran because I was concerned about the moral and spiritual direction of our Nation.

I believe that our Nation because the great nation that it is not only because our Founders worked hard but also because they were a disciplined and virtuous people who planted the seeds that grew into the great nation that we are today.

I, too, am a physician, and I began to become concerned about the future of our Nation when working in inner-city obstetrics clinics. I began to see many, many young people coming in with not only unwanted pregnancies but also venereal diseases that in many cases were incurable and that were going to lead to permanent scarring that would affect their future, their future ability to have a family.

And then after I finished my training and my time in the military, I went into practice in Florida. I have the opportunity to work with a very skilled and knowledgeable infectious disease specialist, Dr. Tim Poyer, who was the only physician in our part of the county seeing AIDS patients at the time. And I spent a good part of the last 7 years taking care of AIDS patients.

I have had the opportunity to treat some of the most terrible, devastating complications of AIDS that I could ever imagine seeking. I have had the opportunity to counsel grieving families. I have had the tragic opportunity to have to pronounce many of these young people dead, to fill out their death certificates. And I have to say that we have a terrible problem in our Nation today with AIDS, and that it is very wrong for our leaders here in Washington to propose that the distributions of condoms is a solution to this problem. The failure rate of these

devices in preventing pregnancy in various studies ranges from 5 to 25 percent.

Mr. Speaker, a woman can only get pregnant 1 day out of the month, and yet the failure rate preventing pregnancy is that high. The failure rate for preventing AIDS is much, much higher. Nobody would risk their life to anything that has a failure rate that high.

There are many Americans who are afraid to get on an airplane out of a fear of a plane crash, when the failure rate of an airplane is something in the range of one in a million, yet the failure of a condom to prevent AIDS is much, much higher than that, probably in the order of 5 percent or more. Yet our leaders in Washington and now our new nominee for Surgeon General is proposing this device as the solution to our problem.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is the morality that was presented to America's youth in the 1960's, that sex outside of marriage is safe and acceptable, is wrong. It is leading to unprecedented problems of terrible disease amongst our Nation, amongst our young people. And it is yielding terrible problems of infertility in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we need a nominee for Surgeon General who will tell the young people of America the truth, who will expose the lie of the safe sex proselytizers who would have our young people believe that a condom is the solution to the problem.

The solution to the problem is abstinence, Mr. Speaker, and I would urge our President to appoint a Surgeon General who supports that philosophy.

COMMUNITY POLICING WORKS—THE KEY TO FIGHTING CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the strongest weapons we have in fighting crime, and that is community-oriented policing.

I join my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK], who has taken a strong lead in this, and other colleagues who will follow me, on what we believe to be the direction that our communities ought to be taking with the support of our Congress.

If we truly want to take back our streets and improve the quality of life in our cities, police officers cannot do it alone. Local residents cannot do it alone. They must work together. That is exactly what community policing does. It allows police officers to work together with local community residents to fight crime.

Now certain Members of Congress want to eliminate this critical approach to crime prevention. And I strongly oppose any efforts to cut community policing programs, and I ask my colleagues to take a good, hard

look at exactly what community policing does for our towns and cities.

Community policing works, and it works because it asks the experts to create crime-fighting strategies.

When I say experts, I am not talking about bureaucrats in Washington offices. When I say experts, I am talking about the people who actually live in the neighborhoods plagued with crime. I am talking about the police officers who patrol these neighborhoods every day.

So when the crime bill says it will put 100,000 new community police officers on the beat, we must remember that these officers will know both the neighborhoods they patrol and the people in them.

I talk from experience. I served on the city council of the city of San Diego for 5 years. San Diego is the sixth largest city in the Nation.

My district, both on the city council and in Congress, includes some of the poorest areas of our city, areas which both have high crime and also a traditional fear of and hostility toward police officers.

Yet we established in those areas of highest crime and highest fear walking patrol teams, teams of police officers who got to know their communities and the communities got to know the cops.

They all had beepers that could be paged at any time. They all had first names, which the residents knew, and they got to know the kids in the community. They got to know the storekeepers in the community.

□ 1950

They got to know the seniors. They knew where people lived and worked and played, and a confidence developed.

I tell the Members, I am one of the few city councilmen in this Nation, I thought, that could walk into a meeting of people in my district, working people, poor people, and the cops would get a standing ovation from those residents, because they had established the trust. They had established the confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked hand-in-hand with neighborhood residents and community policing teams. I have seen the effect this partnership has had in reducing crime. The police officers become real human beings, and the cops become real human beings. They are there working together.

Mr. Speaker, the first year we established in San Diego the walking teams, crime went down a minimum of 10 percent in every major category. However, more than this, more than the rate going down, fear went down in those communities. The community got involved in fighting the crime. The cops had a stake in that community. The cops felt accountable. There were real, objective reasons why the crime rate went down.

Yes, we need to be tough on crime. We need stiffer penalties. We need to make sure criminals serve their full

sentences. However, we also need to work together as communities.

What the crime bill proved last year was that Congress was serious about fighting crime. We had enough foresight to make it a comprehensive fight and a comprehensive effort.

Mr. Speaker, let us not move backward from this effort. Let us understand the central role of community policing in fighting crime. Let us join together to oppose any cuts in these critical programs. It works.

The people have confidence in their police force. The police force know the people they are working with and protecting. The crime rate goes down, and community spirit goes up. Let us keep it.

THE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLUG). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, this Congress should affirm work more by our actions than our words.

At the current minimum wage rate of \$4.25 an hour, a full-time year-round worker earns \$8,500 per year. The President announced his plan last week to raise the minimum wage 45 cents a year over a 2-year period, bringing the wage to a \$5.15 an hour rate by 1997. A 90-cent per hour increase in the minimum wage means an additional \$1,800 per year in the worker's pay check—as much as the average family spends on groceries in over 7 months. Such increases are significant and should be implemented by this body without hesitation.

Sixty percent of all minimum wage workers are women—most of whom are trying to raise a family as a single parent. People who work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year should not be living in poverty. When citizens take responsibility to work full-time, they should be able to raise a family on their wages. We have begun to take up the issue of welfare reform, but if we refuse to make work pay, how will our arguments be effective? Who can afford to listen?

While considering these increases, I am cautious not to upset the balance between the needs of the workers and the economic means of the small business owners. I believe that small businesses are the backbone of this Nation and I would never want to move forward with a proposal that would severely paralyze productivity or adversely affect profit margins. I am confident, though, that raising the minimum wage will do no harm to either, because I believe we should carefully assess any other burdens proposed for such businesses so as not to burden them twice.

Adjusted for inflation, the value of the minimum wage has fallen by nearly 50 cents since 1991, and is now 27 percent lower than it was in 1979. We must

bring these wages back up to a respectable level. We must reward hard work with fair wages. We must take pride in our workers' skills and empower them to be a contributing force in our Nation's growing economy. Prosperity should not be reserved for an elite few—it belongs to all of America's working-class.

Let us keep this in mind when considering the arguments for and against increasing the minimum wage. We should not make this debate more difficult than it needs to be, because despite current posturing, increasing the minimum wage traditionally garners bipartisan support. Although President Bush did not support the measure, the 1989 vote to increase the minimum wage was passed 382 to 37 in the House and 89 to 9 in the Senate. With Presidential support this round, I hope the numbers will continue to enjoy such company in this Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the proposal to raise the minimum wage.

COMMUNITY POLICING WORKS TO LOWER CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. CHAPMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAPMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] for arranging for those of us whose experience has been in the field of law enforcement prior to our duties in the Congress to come and express this evening, and for some time in the evenings in the future, our concerns about what we see as perhaps the direction in the new crime bill, as part of the Contract for America, that may do some serious damage to some of the good things this Congress did last year.

Mr. Chairman, tonight a couple of my colleagues have already addressed the issue of community policing. I want to join them this evening. Before I came to the House of Representatives, I served for 8 years as an elected district attorney in a rural district in northeast Texas.

In that job, I found two things to be true: one, that the best deterrent to criminal conduct was effective prosecution, the certainty of punishment; and even more importantly, the presence of law enforcement on our streets, in our communities, all over the country.

Mr. Speaker, last year's crime bill provides for 100,000 new cops on the beat in a community policing effort. I don't know any law enforcement official that would not tell the Members that one of the most effective things we can do or they can do or anyone can do to fight crime in America is to increase the presence of police on our streets.

You don't have high crime where you have a high number of police officers. You don't have folks breaking into homes if they know the policeman may walk by in the next few minutes. You